

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A granular metal powder that:
 - (a) is produced by the steps of:
 - (a1) preparing a solution comprising:
 - (a1a) a medium selected from the group consisting of water, an organic solvent, and a mixture of them;
 - (a1b) metal particles having an average particle diameter of at least 1 nm and at most 100 nm, the metal particles being composed of a metal selected from the group consisting of Ag, Au and an alloy of each of Ag and Au; and
 - (a1c) an organic compound capable of being adsorbed on the surface of the metal particles; and
 - (a2) drying a medium selected from the group consisting of the water and the organic solvent;
 - (b) contains the organic compound;
 - (c) has an apparent density of at least 1.0 g/ml and at most 5.0 g/ml; and
 - (d) contains water with a content of at least 0.1 wt% and at most 1.5 wt%.

Claims 2-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A granular metal powder that:
 - (a) comprises:

(a1) metal particles having an average particle diameter of at least 1 nm and at most 100 nm, the metal particles being composed of a metal selected from the group consisting of Ag, Au and an alloy of each of Ag and Au; and

(a2) an organic compound capable of being adsorbed on the surface of the metal particles;

(b) has an apparent density of at least 1.0 g/ml and at most 5.0 g/ml; and

(c) contains water with a content of at least 0.1 wt% and at most 1.5 wt%.

7. (Previously presented) A granular metal powder as defined by claim 1, the granular metal powder having a particle diameter of at least 1 μm and at most 100 μm .

8. (Previously presented) A granular metal powder as defined by claim 6, the granular metal powder having a particle diameter of at least 1 μm and at most 100 μm .

9. (Previously presented) A granular metal powder as defined by claim 1, the granular metal powder containing the organic compound with a content of at least 0.1 wt% and at most 20 wt% in terms of carbon content.

10. (Previously presented) A granular metal powder as defined by claim 6, the granular metal powder containing the organic compound with a content of at least 0.1 wt% and at most 20 wt% in terms of carbon content.

11-12. (Cancelled)